



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: THOMAS L. RITZDORF ET AL.

APPLICATION No.: 09/612,176

FILED: JULY 8, 2000

FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
PROCESSING A MICROELECTRONIC
WORKPIECE USING METROLOGY

EXAMINER: ZANDRA V. SMITH

ART UNIT: 2877

CONFIRMATION No: 7779

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

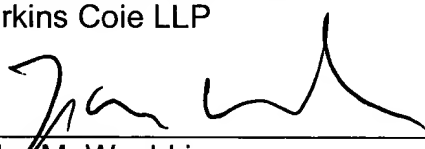
Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Notice of Allowability mailed November 18, 2003, the Examiner allowed claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 23-26, 31-34, 36-43 and 45-67. Although the applicant's attorney agrees with the Examiner's conclusion that these claims are allowable, the applicant's attorney notes that the claims may be allowable for reasons other than those identified by the Examiner and does not concede that the Examiner's characterizations of the terms of the claims and the prior art are correct.

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP

Date: Feb. 12, 2004


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Transmittal of Formal Drawings

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Further to the Notice of Allowance dated November 18, 2003, and the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review dated November 10, 2003, enclosed are the required formal drawings, Figures 1 - 10.

No fees are believed due in connection with this response. However, if fees are due, the Commissioner is requested to charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP

John M. Wechkin
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